

BY

H. C. DALE

EDITED & ILLUSTRATED
BY

George F. Goff





JOHN A. SEAVERNS

Works by the Editor, George A. Fothergill, M.B.

A Riding Retrospect. Crown 4to. With 43 illustrations. 1895. George Waterston & Sons, Edinburgh and London. *Limited to 600 copies. 4s. net. Now out of print.*

An Old Raby Hunt Club Album. 1786-1899. Published (by subscription) by the Author, October 1899. *Edition de luxe, £4, 4s.; extra edition, £3, 3s.* Residue purchased and republished by Bernard Quaritch, London, November 1899, at £5, 5s. and £4, 10s. respectively. *Limited to 150 copies.*

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Notes from the Diary of a Doctor, Artist, and Sportsman. Royal folio. With 250 illustrations by the Author, including many full-page and coloured plates. Published by John Sampson, York, 1900. Republished by John C. Nimmo, Limited, London, 1902. A few remaining copies now offered at 18s. *net*.

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The Sporting Times.—Horses have been a special study of this knight of the pen and pencil. . . .

The Studio.— . . . The author's experience as a doctor, artist, and sportsman will be found both instructive and entertaining.

A North Country Album. Folio. With 140 illustrations by the Author, containing brief notes of the Signs and Signboards and Sundials in North Yorkshire and Durham, Character Sketches, Studies of Animal and Bird Life, Picturesque Landscape and Buildings, etc. Published by W. Dresser & Sons, Darlington, 1902. 7s. 6d. *net*.

Westmorland Gazette.— . . . The drawings are vigorous without being over-elaborated, and carry proof of their fidelity in the quaintness of their detail and the freshness of their effect. . . .

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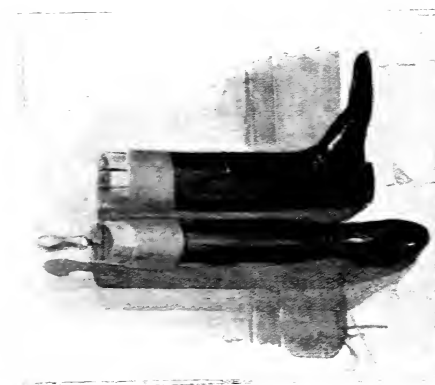
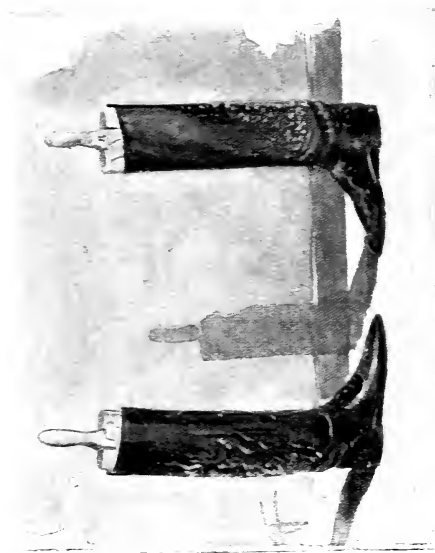
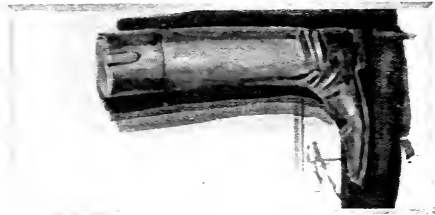
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Hunting, Racing and Polo Things
and
How to Clean Them

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HUNTING, RACING AND
POLO THINGS . . .
AND . . .
HOW TO CLEAN THEM

BY . . .
H. C. DALE



EDITED WITH DRAWINGS . . .
AND NOTES ON . . .
THE SINGULAR USAGE .
OF THINGS CONNECTED
WITH HUNTING . . .

BY . . .
GEORGE A. FOTHERGILL

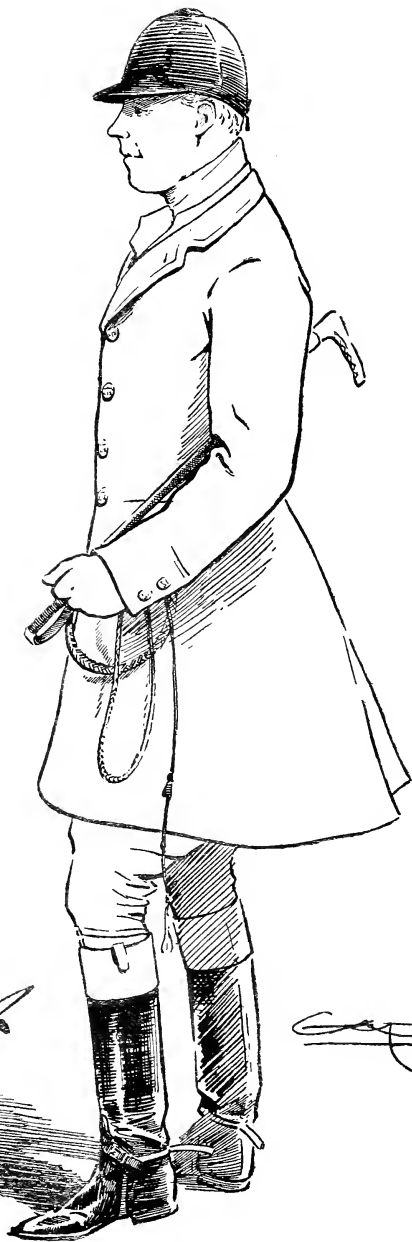


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WATERSTON
AND SONS
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RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED
TO
THE MEMORY
OF
MY LATE MASTER
W. J. DRYBROUGH, Esq.

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INTRODUCTORY.

WHEN Mr H. C. Dale wrote to me, some little time ago, asking if I would be of any assistance to him in the matter of launching his little book, I was only too glad to do all in my power to forward what I consider to be a first-rate guide to a young valet, as well as a useful book for every hunting man to have in his library for reference.

Mr Dale not only happens to have been valet to one of the best sporting friends I ever had, namely, the late Mr W. J. Drybrough, whom I knew well, and hunted with both in Scotland and in the Midlands, but he attended to my requirements during my visits to the same gentleman at Rugby.

I can therefore speak from experience as to his abilities. A smarter, more practical, and more attentive and obliging valet I have not yet come across. How could he possibly be otherwise, after serving for five years such an up-to-date and perfectly appointed sportsman as his late master always was. One year only would have been sufficient to

make a servant a convert or ship him into shape in Mr Drybrough's service.

Though Mr Drybrough was a bachelor, the work that had to be got through from one end of the year to the other was by no means light. A single instance of what had to be done by his valet will suffice to show that in the matter of cleaning and looking after clothes, etc., Mr Dale had his hands quite full. His master had no less than seventy pairs of boots ! I counted them myself after his death, and these included thirty-five pairs of hunting and polo boots. His wardrobe was proportionately large. But it is not quantity so much that we look at ; quality comes before quantity ; and both of these were there in Mr Drybrough's case, under the supreme charge of a perfect valet, who loved to see his own face in the brilliant polish of each of his master's boots !

Mr Drybrough was a remarkable exception to the rule. As a horseman and a regular "bruiser" to hounds, he had very few equals. Mr J. H. Stokes once told me he had never in all his life seen such a strong and good rider on a rough horse as Mr Drybrough ; and no man in England is a better judge of horsemanship than Mr J. H. Stokes of Bowden, Market Harborough. At one time

Mr Drybrough was the strongest and best "back" at polo—one might almost say in the world, considering his great weight and the consequent strain put upon his ponies. And, besides all this, he walked and rode wherever he went as one of the best turned-out sportsmen of his day, and he did not forget his valet's care and attention.

What further need, then, have I to argue that Mr Dale's own words, as put forth in this little book, may be taken for gospel? I have purposely allowed the text to run as close as possible to the wording and construction of the author's MS., for I knew it to be a genuine production from beginning to end; and it is written in a simple and respectful fashion, in such a way that will please, I feel certain, all who take it up to read.

Granted that the world must always contain rich and poor, served and serving, we must look upon valeting as only one of the many necessary occupations for those whose lot it is to serve others, and who, if treated kindly and with sympathy, should love to interest themselves in the welfare of their superiors.

That many influential, and rich men too, have done, and still continue to do, without valets, is no

argument in favour of valets being dispensed with altogether, as some bigoted people have suggested. The majority of those who are in a position to maintain a valet find they cannot do without him.

“Flunkeyism” is to be avoided, with all the contempt for flunkeys which the great Duke of Wellington was wont to express. No master, unless he be an arrant snob, cares for a servant to be servile.

A comparatively well-educated valet—and a valet in many situations has ample opportunities for improving his mind all round—after long service, may prove to be a most valuable friend to his master.

Mr Dale has written his notes on “The Duties of a Valet” if anything, I may say, somewhat one-sidedly, that is, he tells the reader how to attend to one class of master, and that a somewhat eccentric master. However this may be—for the basis of a valet’s duties are well put forth—there is sufficient material to be gathered here to instruct any young would-be valet, and much that one of riper years might attend to with good result.

Everybody should be his own valet, more or less—the majority, perforce, have to be—and if a man has learnt to take care of his clothes at some time or other during his early life—at school or the

university, it may be—he will be the better able to see that his valet, if he ever has one, can and does look well after his belongings.

Each valet of experience adheres to his own methods of cleaning hunting boots and clothes—and there is a great art in doing this, much greater than the one who is ignorant of the work imagines—and yet, after all, the basis of cleaning lies in a nutshell. Practically nothing that is found in pamphlets on the subject—and there are several of an advertising nature afloat—is of much use beyond what Mr Dale gives us here, along with many valuable additions.

I therefore consider his book to be the best which I have seen of the very few published.

GEORGE A. FOTHERGILL, M.B.



MR H. C. DALE.

AUTHOR'S NOTE.

THE Author expresses his thanks to George A. Fothergill, Esq., for his kindness, and for the trouble which he has taken on his behalf in revising and correcting this little book.

He sincerely trusts that the work which the publishers—to whom he here expresses his indebtedness—have taken in hand will be of some service to those of his own calling, as well as to the sporting gentlemen who may kindly take the trouble to read it through.

Hunting, Racing and Polo Things, and How to Clean Them.

It has been my intention for some time past to write a small book on hunting things, on how to clean them, and on valeting generally, to enlighten and to help those who have not been so fortunate as myself.

Hunting things require a good deal of knowledge, and to obtain that knowledge one must begin at the beginning and acquire the same by experience. One cannot learn how to clean them by just seeing another person cleaning them for a few times; therefore a footman, under a butler-valet, stands a good chance of becoming an excellent valet in time. I have been in gentlemen's service since 1885. In my first two situations no hunting was indulged in. It was in 1889 when I first came in contact with hunting things. Having a great desire to learn how to clean them, I did my utmost to get into a hunting establishment, which I did, as footman under a butler-valet. It was in a small village in the centre of the North Cheshire Hunt. My master, I well remember, kept about fourteen

hunters, and hunted with the North and South Cheshire Hounds six days a week. The butler whom I was under, by name Mr Stubbs, was supposed to be one of the finest men at leathers and scarlet as was possible to meet with.

My first initiation into this work was to clean the boots and spurs and spur straps only. He always cleaned and papered the tops, and I had to black and polish the other parts of the boots. But as time went on I was allowed to help to clean the things when they came in, and, still later on, allowed to paste breeches, and finally to polish and finish them off; then I was allowed to clean scarlet and tops. By so doing I gradually gained confidence in my powers, and became efficient at the work. I was always eager to learn the smallest item connected with hunting things. I never lost the opportunity of doing things for the butler, by way of surprises, such as polishing a pair of leathers, etc., unknown to him.

After being in this situation for two years, I embarked on my own account as valet to an officer of the 6th Dragoon Guards, who were at that time stationed at Leeds. My master hunted with the Bramham Moor three days a week—the other three days he would be on duty—so I gained experience with uniform as well as hunting things.

The following June the regiment left Leeds for

Edinburgh and Glasgow, going by road, which took about sixteen days. The squadron, which went to Glasgow, took the route by way of Keightley, Settle, Kirkby-Lonsdale, Kirkby-Stephen, Appleby, Penrith, Carlisle, Annan, Lockerbie, Moffat, Abington, Douglas, and Lanark. I was valet to three officers of this same regiment at different times. In the hunting season they hunted with the North and South Cheshire.

In 1893 I went as valet to Mr R. von Wahrmann, of Vienna, with whom I gained experience in travelling—travelling much more than I had hitherto done. My master and I visited such places as Ostend, Brussels, Cologne, Hamburg, Berlin, Munich, Vienna, Marienbad, Paris, Nice, Monte Carlo, Mentone, and many other places. In 1894 I came back to England.

In April of that year I went as valet to the late W. J. Drybrough, Esq., the noted polo player, and one of the finest to hounds that ever crossed over a horse. My master resided at that time in Edinburgh, hunting three days a week with the Linlithgow and Stirlingshire Hounds, also with the Fife Hounds and the Berwickshire every now and again. My master at that time kept six hunters and about twenty polo ponies.*

* It might be mentioned here that — Capell, elder brother of Ben Capell, huntsman of the Belvoir, was Mr W.

After the hunting season was over my master commenced to play polo in Edinburgh, and later in the season would go to Hurlingham, to play for the County Cup, which the Edinburgh team won two years in succession.

In 1895 my master took The Eastlands, a hunting box situated at Rugby, hunting six days a week, and with a different pack each day at first, viz., Mr Fernie's on Monday, the North Warwickshire on Tuesday, the Pytchley on Wednesday, the Warwickshire on Thursday, the Atherstone on Friday, the Pytchley on Saturday again.

I had four seasons' good experience in Warwickshire. At the Eastlands, my master was able to make his stud much larger, owing to the quantity of stabling attached to this small place, having at one time as many as forty-nine hunters and polo ponies.

Polo, the same as hunting, my master was in the midst of at Rugby, and as soon as the hunting was over, he would commence to play at Rugby and Leamington during the month of May. Then he would go to town and play at Hurlingham and Ranelagh, where he played in all the leading tournaments for Rugby, and from there to Paris. On his return, he would finish the London polo season

J. Drybrough's stud-groom at this time, and went down with him to Rugby, on Mr Drybrough having decided to hunt in the Midlands.—ED.

at Hurlingham and Ranelagh. Towards the end of July came on the tournament at Leamington, and during the week following would be the Rugby tournament. After these came Cirencester and the tournament in Phoenix Park, Dublin, where the Rugby team competed for the "All Ireland Challenge Cup." The Rugby team had won two years in succession I think, and it was my master's greatest ambition that his team should win the third time, and bring the cup to England. But on the 3rd of August 1899, whilst playing at Rugby, previous to the Dublin tournament, my master met with a fatal accident, and died the next morning, and, alas ! it was then I lost the best of masters and the best friend I ever had.

THE DUTIES OF A VALET.

It is essential for a valet to be smart and neat in appearance. Always take a pride in your clothes, boots, etc., seeing that your boots are well cleaned. *Pay attention to shaving!* Every gentleman who keeps a valet likes to see his servant clean, smart, and neat. Let every valet rise early in the morning to commence his work—this will give him better health and assist his memory. It is an old saying, “*Tidy in one’s self, tidy in one’s work.*” It is essential for a valet to be tidy in his work. A good valet ought to be able to clean his hunting things without making scarcely any mess whatever. It is not at all necessary for a servant, whilst cleaning hunting things, to splash breeches, paste, and other things all over the place. *The brushing room should be quite as tidy as the pantry is wont to be.* Always see that the tables are clean. The brushing room should be kept expressly for hunting things and valeting generally. If not limited to room, it would be advisable to brush dress clothes in some other place.

Always obtain your orders from your master overnight, as to what time you are to call him in the morning and so forth. You may place his woollen shirt and vest, pants and stockings overnight in his

dressing-room or bedroom, as the case may be ; also his hunting tie and handkerchief. In the morning call your master at the hour stated overnight, taking with you his cup of tea or coffee, whichever is his custom to partake. Take also a can of hot water for shaving. After informing your master of the time, begin to prepare the things on the toilet table and wash-hand stand for his toilet. For instance, place his shaving brush, shaving soap, and tooth powder box handy ; also fill a tumbler with warm water, and place his toothbrush thereon ; * also place his razor on the toilet table, together with a shaving cloth or paper, suitable to wipe his razor on when shaving. Keep your master's razors well stropped, that is if he does not prefer to do them himself. After doing these little things, fold up his evening shirt, vest, socks, etc., and bring out his dress clothes and evening shoes. Then take his bath-sponge and towel to the bathroom, and get his bath in readiness. After this is done, take the dress clothes and evening shoes downstairs to the brushing room or servants' hall, as the case may be.

Then you begin to prepare his things for hunting as follows :—You would place his silk hat, gloves,

* Each master has his own ideas about this kind of thing, as each valet will find out on taking up his situation. Most of us, I fancy, prefer to dip our own toothbrushes in the powder.—ED.

hunting crop, etc., in the front hall. If your master is driving on to the meet, or going by train, you would put out his great coat and muffler, a pair of woollen gloves, his apron, and, should he be a smoker, his cigar case and matches; also see that you have the carriage rugs in readiness. Then you would fill his flask, and see that his sandwich case is not empty. Give these articles, in addition to a pair or two of woollen gloves, to your master's second horseman. The woollen gloves the second horseman places under the flaps of the two saddles. Always see that your master's breakfast is ready for him. There is nothing which upsets your master more on a hunting morning than to have to wait for breakfast or some of his things which he requires to wear.

If it is not your duty to see to your master's breakfast, look after those who are supposed to prepare it, so that it may be ready in time. After your master has taken his bath, he may hurriedly dress, donned in a smoking suit or plain suit, which you place ready for him when you call him. When he is ready for breakfast, see that his letters are placed where he can see them.

You will next take the trees out of the top-boots, and take the paper off the tops. Place the garters through the loops at the back; shake a little French chalk in the boots. Have spurs and straps in readi-


ness, and be sure that the spurs and straps are well cleaned ; afterwards take the boots and spurs up to your master's bedroom or dressing-room.* Fix the boot-hooks in the loops, also a button-hook through the loop at the back or front.

Place your spurs on a chair, together with a pair of old evening gloves and a button-hook—most gentlemen like to put on their spurs themselves. After this is done, place a clean breeches cloth on the bed ; then lay your leathers on the cloth, with a button-hook by the side of the leathers. Have your scarlet coat ready laid out, and one or two hunting waistcoats for your master to choose from, taking care not to put a scarlet one to be worn with a scarlet coat.

Always be in readiness to assist your master to dress for hunting ; a servant should be waiting for his master, not the master waiting for the servant. That is another thing which tries the patience of a gentleman, to have to call or ring for his servant, when he should be in his master's room waiting for him to come up to dress.

Assist your master as much as possible. See that you have the button-hooks handy ; also the

* Many sportsmen, especially bachelors, prefer to have their boots and hunting coat warming near their breakfast room or study fireside, and change into them before mounting.—ED.



"THE MAN THAT
CANNOT DO
WITHOUT HIS
VALET."

A. M. Thornton
in town.

article for pushing down the tabs after your master has pulled on his top-boots. See that the necessary pins are at hand for your master's scarf; and last, but not least, see that you fix a hat-guard, if he is in the habit of wearing one, to the scarlet coat. When your master is almost ready, he will probably tell you to go and order his hack, or dog-cart, or buggy to be brought round to the front door. Do this at once.

If your master is driving on to the meet some distance away, he may possibly require a change of clothes to take with him; therefore, if he tells you that he will require a change, see that you have it packed up in time; take care not to forget anything.

After your master has gone, you have the day before you to attend to the things which he wore the previous day, such as scouring the tops, pasting the breeches, cleaning the scarlet coat, etc.; also polishing a pair of leathers for the next day, likewise a pair of boots. But before commencing these things, you would brush your master's dress clothes and clean his evening shoes; when done, take them upstairs and put them away; then place his room in order again, seeing that all the things on the dressing-table are placed in their proper places. Rub the silver tops with a chamois leather every morning. You should take care that your master's toilet-table is well kept; keep the silver things well

polished. Pay attention to razors, scissors, etc.; no rust must be allowed to get on them. Hairbrushes and sponges should have every attention—a little ammonia thrown into a basin of hot water and allowed to cool before immersion of the brushes will cleanse them well without softening the bristles; no soap is necessary, but brushes should be exposed to the fresh air for twenty-four hours. The sponges may be cleaned by adding a little ammonia to a basin of warm water, afterwards thoroughly rinse, and place to dry.

Get well advanced with hunting things for the morrow. *Never leave anything to be done on the morning of hunting*; only in case your top-boots get dull, then you must polish them up again.

If your master is likely to return early from hunting, place a change of clothes, boots, etc., ready—this is in the event of his not having taken a change with him; also have his things ready for his bath. Should he not return early, place his evening clothes in readiness for him. *Always be in when your master returns from hunting*, and help him to undress. Commence on your dirty things as soon as possible.

If your master has a variety of hunting things, have a complete set of each in readiness. Should he not require leathers and scarlet, he may want a pair of washing cords, a pair of boots with

polished tops, and a Melton coat; or he may require a pair of cloth breeches, a pair of boots with patent leather tops, and Melton coat. All these things should be ready in case he may ask for them.

Keep your master's clothes and boots in good order. "*Have a place for everything, and everything in its place.*" Have a drawer or two especially for evening and day shirts. Keep the collars and handkerchiefs by themselves; ties and socks also in separate drawers. Woollen shirts, thick vests, and pants may be kept on one or two of the trays of the wardrobe. Thin underwear should be kept separately. Suits should be folded and kept by themselves. Dress clothes should be kept separately, also frock coats.

Hunting coats are better hung up. A very good method is to have a rod fixed in the wardrobe, or some cupboard or recess fitted with sliding rings, and have proper things to hang the coats on. *Send your master's things to the laundry at the beginning of each week, taking care to count the articles sent. Write out two lists, one for the laundress and one for yourself.* By doing this, you will have a better chance of seeing that all the things are returned in order.

It is essential that your master should furnish you with a hunting boot-kit, fitted with boot brushes, clothes brushes, breeches brushes, boot-top brushes,

brown boot brushes, scarlet coat brushes, blacking bottle, varnish bottle, hat irons, hat pad, boot tins, sponges, leathers, and all necessary articles. A smaller one is required for travelling in the summer.

It is well, before the hunting season commences, to obtain all the necessary articles which you are likely to require during the season, such as blacking, varnish, breeches paste, French chalk, gum dragon, gum arabic, cloth balls, cochineal blue, glycerine, compo, brown boot polishes, acids, etc.; also, be sure and have a supply of buckskin and leather garters, spur straps and boot laces, whipcord, hat guards, etc.

If you have any buttons off your hunting things, either coat or breeches, have them put on at once. *Never give your master a pair of leathers or a coat with a button off.* See that underwear, socks, and stockings are kept neatly darned by some maid-servant, whose duty it is to look after them.

Should your master damage his hat out hunting, take it at once to be blocked. If no local hatter can do this, send it to your master's hatter in London. Should he damage his scarlet or other coats, have them also repaired at once; likewise with whips, boots, and spurs.

After cleaning your coats and boots, take them to your master's room. *Never leave things lying about in the brushing-room.* Hang your leathers

that have been cleaned in a cool place, to keep them soft. In the event of frost, it is better to wrap your polished leathers in a breeches cloth, and place in your master's wardrobe. If the frost lasts any length of time, and you have your leathers hung up in the cellar, they are likely to get damp ; and after the frost has gone, and your master commences hunting again, you may probably find them covered with little black spots, about the size of pin heads, which would probably puzzle you as to what they might be, or the cause of them. I will explain to you. They have been hung up too long in a damp place, and the little spots are mildew ; the leathers are not altogether ruined, but it spoils the look of them. You will require to use acids with the greatest care and discretion. I have known servants burn leathers all to pieces through using acid to them, and not knowing how to apply it in a proper fashion.

VISITING.

Should your master tell you that he is going to stay the night at a gentleman's house and hunt from there the next morning, and wish you to take his things on by train, pay great attention to what he has to say to you, for he may not return home, but go straight on to the gentleman's house in question after finishing his day's hunting. *Take care not to forget anything.* Take a complete set of the following things:—A scarlet coat and waistcoat, a pair of leathers, top boots, spurs and straps, whip, hat and gloves; also an apron, in case he has to drive on to the meet. *Always take two or three pairs of garters for the boots,* for very often, if a gentleman is in the habit of pulling them very tight, off goes a buckle, and, if you have only the one pair, it is very annoying. Take with you also a great coat and muffler. In addition to these, you will require to take a woollen shirt, vest, pants, and stockings or socks, hunting scarf and handkerchiefs, as well as dress clothes and a dinner jacket, evening shirts—best to take two—collars, studs and links, white waistcoats, white ties, evening socks, and the necessary underwear—pyjamas, or the older-fashioned night-shirt, sock-suspenders and braces, dressing-gown,

slippers and evening shoes. Take, too, a suit of plain clothes and boots for your master to appear at breakfast in. Always take your master's scarlet dress coat with you, for that garment is sometimes required for dinners or balls during the hunting season. See that you have his evening gloves. Take all necessary things for the toilet and bath. A cap and a pair of gloves which have not been used for riding, button-hooks, boot-hooks, etc., not forgetting his tobacco and pipe, cigar and cigarette cases.

Unpack your things as soon as you get there, and put out your master's things for dinner. Then await the arrival of your master. Take his hat, whip, and gloves from the front hall to the brushing room. Then go up to his room and assist him to undress and dress for dinner. *Get your orders for the morning*, and arrange his things for the night and morning also in the same way that you would do at home.

If you are only staying the night, it is as well to pack up your hunting things and clean them when you get home the next day. Tree up the boots, and turn the leathers inside out, and so on. Hang your leathers that are to be worn the next day in a cool place, and see that your boots are not scratched or dull ; if so, polish them up again. Call your master at the time he wishes, and arrange his things as you would do at home. Have his flask and sandwich case

filled. Help your master to dress for hunting, after breakfast. When you have set him off, pack up your things ; take care not to forget anything, and get home as soon as possible, to commence operations for the next day. If you have to go away for a longer period, and your master gives you plenty of notice, it is better to take cleaned leathers and boots rather than have to clean them when you get there. And, of course, take the other things necessary, according to the length of time you are likely to be away.

Always take your own brushes and cleaning things, as servants, as a rule, do not care for visiting servants to make use of theirs. You should *take your own dress clothes.* You may not be required to wait at dinner, but there are some houses where you would be out of place taking your meals in the steward's or housekeeper's room without dress clothes.

METHODS OF CLEANING.

HUNTING THINGS.

When your master returns from hunting, and after helping him to undress, take all the things to the brushing-room, and commence by washing the scarlet coat.*

SCARLET COAT (First Process).

Lay the coat on the table, and water brush well with soft water, beginning at the collar ; then do the inside of skirt and tails. If the tails are white with grease and sweat from the horse, use a little Sun-light soap. After this is done, turn your coat over to the other side, and water brush well, using a sponge afterwards. When this is done, hang up to dry.

SCARLET COAT (Final Process).

Well sponge your scarlet coat with soft water, then apply the coloured fluid evenly all over the coat with a stiff brush, working your brush one way ; well

* Unless a red coat is very dirty, it is perhaps better not to wet it at all, but leave to dry in warm room all night, and brush well in the morning, just washing the inside of tails and applying the red coat solution.—ED.



"Always in front
an
often alone"

"WELL TURNED OUT."

sponge the parts after using the fluid. Hang to dry, outside if possible ; if not, dry in the brushing-room, not near the fire. When dry, press with a hot iron, using a damp cloth ; afterwards clean the buttons thoroughly. Plate powder and ammonia should be used. When finished, hang up in the wardrobe.

RECIPE FOR SCARLET COAT.*

$\frac{1}{4}$ oz. oxalic acid.	} Colour with cochineal or Judson's scarlet dye.
$\frac{1}{4}$ oz. salts of lemon.	
1 liqueur glass of whisky.	
1 qt. boiling soft water.	

WHITE AND OTHER COLLARS ON SCARLET COATS.

White collars, clean with blanco ; when dry, brush all the dust out, or clean with cloth ball. Yellow collars, clean with cloth ball of that colour. Mix a little of the ball to the thickness of cream, and apply with a sponge or small brush. When dry, brush out the dust ; afterwards dry clean, by scraping a little of the ball on the collar, then well rub with the cloth ball. Yellow waistcoats may be cleaned by a similar process.

* In coal districts, where the soil is very dark in colour, stains are very hard to get out, and treble the quantity of acid may be required in this recipe. Some valets prefer the following recipe—Cochineal, 2 oz. ; salts of sorrel, 1 oz. ; boiling water, 1 quart, for their red coats.—ED.

LEATHERS.

After you have water brushed your coat, commence washing your leathers. *The table must be clean.* Fold the leathers the same as you would a pair of trousers, then lay flat on the table; when this is done, turn the top leg up towards the waist. Begin by sponging the other leg with warm water, using a little soap, and taking care not to wet them too much; after this is completed, turn over and sponge the other leg. Next do the sides; afterwards open out and sponge the back parts. When this is done, sponge the front of them. By so doing, you do not overlook any part of the leathers. Care must be taken to wash off all the paste. If the leathers are stained, remove with salts of lemon or oxalic acid; have the acids dissolved in bottles (1 oz. to a pint and a half of water).* *Take care to sponge the places well with clean water where you have used the acid.* Next pull out the wrinkles at the back of the legs, give a rough coating of paste, and hang up to dry. *Take care not to place them near the fire.* A lemon is an excellent thing to remove stains also. *Never use a brush to leathers, unless very badly stained.*

* Always see that bottles containing this deadly poison and other poisons are kept well out of the reach of children or animals. Fatal cases, unfortunately, are not rare through carelessness in this respect.—ED.

Before commencing to paste leathers, give them a good rubbing, inside and out. Mix the paste with warm water to the consistency of cream, give a good tinge of blue, and add a little glycerine. Fold the leathers as before stated, and apply the paste with a small sponge kept expressly for that purpose. Work your sponge in a circular way, and work the paste well in; take care not to miss any parts. Allow the first coat to dry before giving a second one. Add a little *gum dragon** to the paste for a third coat. When dry, fold as before, and gum with *gum dragon*; apply with a sponge, and smooth over with left hand; then sprinkle French chalk over the parts, and polish with your hand. By this process you can obtain a splendid polish. Well clean all the buttons, and brush the inside of waist; rub the leathers downwards with a clean chamois leather kept expressly for the purpose; when finished, hang in a cool place.

Leathers, when finished, should be perfectly soft and pliable; and by cleaning them in the way I have described here, you will have no fear of the paste coming off. *Never belong to the class of servant which beats leathers after they are pasted.* Always

* To prepare the jelly called *gum dragon* (proper name is *gum tragacanth*), put 1 oz. of the "shavings" in a pint bottle of water; allow it to stand on the hob, and keep shaking now and again until it sets into a jelly.—ED.

paste and polish your leathers on an ironing sheet. Sleeve-boards are excellent things to place the legs of the leathers in when polishing them. *Breeches trees I consider little better than useless for anything connected with leathers. Use Probert's breeches paste.*

BREECHES POLISHER.

A breeches polisher may be made by dissolving in a pan over a bright fire a quantity of best white wax; when dissolved, add a small quantity of gum dragon and a little French chalk; stir well together, and allow this to get perfectly hot; when this has been done, pour into small shallow pots, such as are used for potted meats, and allow to cool. When cool, break the pot to get the polisher out. Pure white gum dragon must be used, or the polisher will have a dirty brownish look; care must be taken that the gum dragon is well melted. When using the polisher, the breeches must be well gummed all over after they are pasted. Care must be taken that the legs do not stick together, otherwise it will fetch the paste off. When done, hang up to dry, afterwards polish with the polisher.

BREECHES POLISH (very good).

$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of white wax, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of curd soap, $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. of isinglass—melt altogether, and put into pots.

WATERPROOF BOOTS.

Boots, both black and brown, may be made waterproof by saturating with castor oil—a splendid dressing for strong shooting boots. The boots in a very short time can be cleaned in the ordinary way, and a fairly good polish can be produced.

WHITE BUCKSKIN WAISTCOATS.

Clean in the same way as leathers.

BROWN BUCKSKIN LEATHERS.

After these have been washed, and, when dry, give them a coating of cloth ball (tan), and hang them up to dry. When perfectly dry, brush well out with a stiff dandy brush ; afterwards give them a dry cleaning by scraping the cloth ball all over ; then rub well with the cloth ball, and afterwards brush upwards with the dandy brush. By so doing you get the nap up, and this also makes them perfectly soft.

Tan gaiters, clean in the same way.

Strappings on ordinary breeches, clean with cloth ball of the same shade as the strapping.

TOP BOOTS.

After washing your leathers and garters, commence on the boots. First of all, place the trees in

the boots, taking care to put the proper pieces in the boot for which they are intended ; turn upside down, and push the boot up toward the tops. By so doing you get the wrinkles out.*

First sponge all the mud off the tops, then wash the mud off the blacked parts. See that you wash all the mud out of the welts. After this is done, place some oxalic acid in a saucer, and scour the tops until all the stains are removed ; well sponge with cold water afterwards, and *place to dry not too near the fire.*

After brushing the boots thoroughly with a stiff dirt brush, give them a good boning.† Black and polish the bottom of the soles first ; then black and polish the other parts, working the blacking well in. Give them several coats of blacking, and polish them well, using the bone frequently. Proport's standard blacking is the best, and mix with it a little glycerine. By cleaning the boots in this way a most beautiful polish can be produced.

Well scour the tops with boot-top powder, doing

* There is one little wrinkle in the soft leather of a racing boot, about half-way up the leg in front, which never will come out even when boot is in trees ; it seems natural to the make of boot. *Vide racing boot in coloured frontispiece.*—ED.

† The "cannon" bone of a deer is smoothest and hardest bone for "boning" a top-boot. Most good bootmakers can procure such.—ED.

them evenly and thoroughly. Smooth over with a soft brush, and place to dry; when dry, scour them over again; when almost dry, *polish with a very soft brush very lightly*. When finished, paper the tops up, and put in the trees again after blacking and polishing the other parts.

RECIPE FOR YELLOW TOPS.

To one box of straw coloured boot-top powder add one tablespoonful of turmeric; mix well together; pour over a quart of boiling soft water; when cool, put into bottles. It is then ready for use.

To get the desired effect of the above, new white tops are requisite. Care should be taken not to use this on tops that have been scoured with other coloured boot-top powders. I can strongly recommend Bartley's Primrose boot-top powder.

RECIPE FOR MAHOGANY TOPS.

6d. worth of hay saffron, 1 bottle of Hudson's brown dye, 1 oz. turmeric, 2 oz. salts of sorrel.* Boil the hay saffron in a quart of water over a slow

* "Salts of sorrel" (superoxalate of potash) is a salt of oxalic acid, and is the same as "salts of lemon" or "bonnet acid." These salts are used because in strength weaker, and so less dangerous, than the pure acid.—ED.

fire for half an hour, then strain off and add the other ingredients.

RECIPE FOR LIGHT BROWN TOPS.

6d. worth of hay saffron, 1 oz. turmeric, 2 oz. salts of sorrel. Boil the hay saffron as in above, and add the other ingredients.

RECIPE FOR LIGHT BROWN TOPS WITH TINGE OF RED IN THEM.

The same recipe as above, with $\frac{1}{2}$ bottle of Judson's scarlet dye (6d. per bottle).

RECIPE FOR DARK BROWN TOPS.

The same recipe as that for mahogany tops, only with a little brown umber instead of turmeric.

RECIPE FOR NUT BROWN TOPS.

1 oz. turmeric, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. brown umber, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Venetian red, 1 oz. salts of sorrel, $1\frac{1}{2}$ pint of water.

N.B.—DIRECTIONS FOR USING THE ABOVE FIVE STAINS.—Wash dirt off tops with stiff brush, and scrub the fluid in with a fairly stiff brush until the stains disappear, then polish, if required, with soft brush, kept for the purpose.

POLISHED TOPS.

Scour well the tops with the fluid of the shade required, doing them evenly all over, and allow to dry. When dry, give a second coat, and dry again ; afterwards polish them with a soft brush, and paper the tops.

PATENT LEATHER TOPS.

After the tops have been well sponged and allowed to dry, apply a small quantity of compo on the end of a brush, doing them evenly all over ; then brush well with a soft brush, and polish with a chamois leather.

SPURS AND STRAPS.

Well wash the spurs and straps and dry with a cloth. Remove the rust from inside of spurs and buckles with emery paper. Polish as in the case of silver plate.

SPUR STRAPS.

Place the straps on a strap cleaner, and black and polish well.

SPURS.

Well burnish the buckles and inside of spurs ; clean the outsides with plate powder and ammonia, using the hand to remove scratches. When finished, burnish slightly, and rub with a chamois leather.

SILK HAT.

Remove all the dirt from the silk hat by water brushing, using soft water, and afterwards sponge over and hang up to dry. After the hat has been allowed to dry, brush well with a stiff brush, afterwards iron with a hat iron. Apply a small quantity of vaseline * on the hat pad, and hold to the fire. Allow to cool for a moment, then apply the pad to the hat, smoothing it evenly all over. When this is done, use a silk handkerchief for a final touch up.

HUNTING CROP.

Well wash the crop, and apply a little soap, removing the mud from the handle with a brush. Well wash the thong, and use a little oxalic acid. Straighthen out, and hang up to dry.† Polish the ferrules of the crop with plate powder and ammonia in the same way as the spurs.

* Personally, I prefer pure paraffin to vaseline for this purpose. Another valet I know of uses a little olive oil on hat pad. It is impossible to get dirt well out of a silk hat without washing carefully and well.—ED.

† Never allow thongs to hang up any way but in a perpendicular fashion from a hook. To twist a thong round a crop and hang it thus is unfair on the thong and unsportsmanlike.—ED.

GLOVES.

Draw the gloves on your hand, and sponge well with a little soda and water (washing soda). Pull the fingers out, and hang up to dry. When well dried, rub them to make them soft and pliable. To dog skin gloves give a coating of milk afterwards.

ELASTIC KNEECAPS.

Scrub well with *Sunlight soap*. Take care not to stretch them. Afterwards rinse and dry.

WHITE CORDS.

Well soak the cords over night in a large earthenware pan, containing a quantity of *Hudson's soap*. Cold, *soft* water must be used. After they have been soaked all night, place on a table and scrub them well with hot water, using Hudson's or Sunlight soap. When all stains have been removed, rinse them thoroughly in cold, soft water. After you have got all the soap out of them, well rinse in clean blue water. Hang them up to dry in the open, and allow them to drip. *Do not wring them; turn them inside out.* Cords take a long time to dry. When perfectly dry, well iron them and air off. If your master likes his cords pasted, give them a good coating of breeches paste after you have washed them, using a brush to put it on.

When dry, beat out the paste, and well iron them on the inside first,* then on the right side, *taking care not to scorch them.*

MELTON COATS.

Well brush Melton coats with warm soft water and ammonia. When dry, press well with a hot iron, and hang up. *Cold tea and methylated spirits is an excellent thing for cleaning black Melton coats, and all kinds of black cloth.*

PLUSH CAPS.

Well sponge the dirt off the cap, and when dry brush with a stiff brush. Afterwards steam over a basin of hot water to raise the pile.

* Some valets prefer not to iron breeches ; it has a tendency to shrink them. In wringing out cords, an india-rubber wringer may be used.—ED.

SHOOTING THINGS.

Well dry your shooting things after your master returns from shooting. When dry, brush them well, and press with a hot iron, using a damp cloth. Clean the strappings, if any, with cloth ball. Wash all the mud from the boots and spats or gaiters, and *place to dry not too near the fire.* When dry, grease the boots well. Use cloth ball to the spats.

GUNS.

Well clean the guns after shooting, and oil thoroughly. When the guns are to be used again, wipe off the oil with a cloth, using tow to clean the barrels. It is necessary for a valet to know how to load. If you have not done any loading, get the keeper to give you a few lessons, for, *next to a good shot comes a good loader.* You will require to give your guns a wipe out during the day of shooting. Always see that you take out plenty of cartridges, and *take a cartridge extractor with you.*

POLO THINGS.

BREECHES.

Breeches, when dirty, send to the laundry to be washed.*

POLO BOOTS.

Place the boots on the trees, and wash them well with soda and water. When dry, clean in the following way:—Apply Royal Navy Dressing (Proper's) evenly all over the boot with a netted duster, brush well with a rather stiff brush. Give one or two dressings of this. Then apply a little of (Wren's) brown boot polish. Afterwards hold a large piece of beeswax to the fire for a few minutes, then rub it well over the brush, and apply this to the boot, using a soft brush afterward. Polish off with a soft duster and chamois leather. A most brilliant polish can be produced in this way. *All brown boots can be cleaned in this manner, also brown leather leggings.*

STAIN FOR BROWN BOOTS.

Brown boots may be darkened by using annato and methylated spirit. Apply this each time you

* This is decidedly one of the duties of a valet in the average establishment.—ED.

wash the boots, and when cleaned, a most beautiful polish will be the result.

A good scouring fluid for brown boots may be made by placing a quantity of saffron in a basin full of water, and put in the oven for some time. Then add a little oxalic acid. When scouring the boots, sponge them well afterwards with cold water, and allow to dry. When dry, polish as before stated.

WALKING BOOTS.

Take the laces out and place the boots on the trees. Brush off all the dirt with hard brush. Then bone well, give a good black, and polish them several times, using the bone frequently. Rub a little grease from a tallow candle slightly over the boot and bone gently. Then black and polish a few times, finishing off with a very soft polishing brush. Black and polish the bottoms well.

VARNISHED BOOTS.

After washing off the varnish, allow to dry. Well black and polish them as above. Then give a coat of varnish, and allow to dry. They will require several coats of varnish. Each coat should be allowed to dry before giving another one. Apply with your finger, or camel's hair brush; rub a little kid reviver on the kid tops. *De Guiche varnish is the best to use.*

PATENT LEATHER BOOTS.

After washing all the dirt from the boots and allowed to dry, apply black Meltonian cream with a sponge evenly all over the boots. Then brush well with a rather stiff brush, afterwards use a soft brush and polish with a soft duster and chamois leather. Compo may also be used for cleaning them. Apply kid reviver to the kid tops.

WHITE BUCKSKIN BOOTS.

After washing off all the dirt, give a coating of breeches paste several times, and allow to dry; then sponge over with gum dragon; sprinkle French chalk over them, and polish with the hand. They may also be cleaned with blanco. White belts, gloves, etc., can be cleaned in the same way.

A FEW EXTRA HINTS.

After the hunting season is over, clean up all the things and put them away. *Never leave hunting things lying about in the brushing room from the end of the season to the beginning of the next.*

Clean the scarlet and other coats thoroughly, and press them well, afterwards fold or hang them in the wardrobe.

After washing off all the breeches paste from the leathers, and removing all the stains, allow to dry;

when dry, give them a good rubbing, inside and out ; give them a good brushing inside with a stiff dandy brush. When this has been done, fold them up, and wrap in breeches cloths, and place in the wardrobe.

Well scour the tops of the boots with oxalic acid, and remove all stains and boot-top powder also ; sponge the tops well afterwards, and allow to dry ; when dry, paper the tops, black and polish the other parts of the boots, and put them away. The tops will require scouring when used again, and the boots again thoroughly cleaned.

The hats, whips, and spurs should be well cleaned and put away. Spurs should be well cleaned and placed on a spur rest in your master's dressing-room, or wherever he likes to keep them. Always press and iron each suit after being worn.

If your master's boots are to be repaired, such as having new tops to them, etc., it is advisable to have them sent to your master's town bootmaker directly after the season is over.

Also send leathers, scarlet, and other coats that require anything done to them to the tailor.

RACING THINGS.

For racing, take silk breeches, racing boots and spurs, jacket and cap, cutting whip and field glasses. Assist your master to dress in the dressing-room, and take charge of his things, money, watch and chain, and other valuables during his absence.

YEOMANRY UNIFORM.

Should your master be an officer in the Yeomanry, endeavour to turn him out well, taking care that the uniform is well brushed and cleaned, and that the boots are well polished, and the sword and spurs nice and bright.

A scarlet tunic may be cleaned with the scarlet cloth ball. Scrape a little of the ball over the tunic and brush well afterwards. If stained, remove with a little of the scarlet coat fluid.

White stripes on overalls and riding pants clean with breeches paste or blanco, using a tooth-brush with which to put it on. When dry, brush the dust well out. Yellow stripes clean with yellow cloth-ball or ochre. Place the gauntlets and other gloves on trees, and clean with breeches paste ; afterwards gum and polish with French chalk.

The sword and spurs must be cleaned with bath-brick, if steel, and burnish well with a burnisher afterwards. See that the pouch, buckles, buttons, etc., are well cleaned.

The cloak and cape should be carefully folded.

The spurs, when cleaned, should be fixed loosely on the jack-boots, and pulled up tight when your master has put them on.

Wellington boots should be put in the overalls ready. This is done by placing your hand down the inside of the leg and taking hold just below where the knee would come. When this has been done, fix the boots in, and bottom the waist of the overalls level with the tops of the boots.

Uniforms should be kept in the military cases, and should be folded in tissue paper to keep the lace and facings from getting soiled.

Your master's outfit would comprise the following :—A tunic, two pairs of overalls, two pairs of riding-pants, frock-coat, pelisse, stable-jacket, serge, mess-jacket, waistcoat and overalls, cloak and cape, busby and plume, forage cap and service cap, riding boots and spurs, Wellington boots and spurs, mess boots and gilt spurs, pouch belt and pouch, waist-belt for tunic, sword and sword knot and sword sling, gauntlets, white buckskin gloves and white woollen gloves, and small cane.

The busby and plume should be placed in their different cases, the sword in leather case.

TRAVELLING.

When going away, ascertain from your master the length of time he is likely to be away, and pack up your things accordingly.

It is well to pack shirts, collars, etc. in a shirt case. There is a small portmanteau made expressly for shirts. Boots should be packed in a case by themselves also, and should be placed in bags made on purpose. Crape is a good thing to use for varnished boots and shoes. When packing, always use proper packing paper and tissue paper. *Never use newspaper, it looks so untidy.*

If your master is going to London, you may require to take, in addition to ordinary clothes, frock-coats and vests, fancy day vests, and several pairs of trousers, silk hats, walking sticks, umbrellas, overcoats, a waterproof, field and opera glasses, as well as an opera hat; also riding things for your master, if he rides in the Row.

Pack your master's dress suit in the dressing-case with shirt, studs, and sleeve-links, vest, pants, evening socks, suspenders, braces, white waistcoat, collars, handkerchiefs, white ties, evening boots or shoes, and a pair of slippers. By so doing you have the evening things all together, and if your master

has only a short time to dress for dinner, you can lay your hands upon them at once.

If your master is a polo player, and a member of Hurlingham and Ranelagh, you will require to take several pairs of polo breeches and polo boots; also several coloured silk polo shirts, representing the different clubs your master plays for. Gloves, sweaters, waistbelt, polo cap, wrist straps, and elastic kneecaps (if worn); also a number of polo sticks, and a cutting whip.

When everything is packed, label each package. *Always have your own portmanteau packed in readiness.* When this is done, count the number of portmanteaus and packages; then get the luggage down stairs and place it in the luggage cart or cab.

See that your master has everything he requires before you start.

When you arrive at the station, give the porter instructions as to where you require the luggage to be labelled to. Accompany the porter to the train, and see the luggage placed in the van, taking notice which van it has been put into. Next secure your master a seat in a first-class carriage—a smoking compartment, if preferred by your master; place his dressing-bag or dressing-case in the carriage, also his rug. Always have a cap handy for your master to wear when travelling, likewise a book to read, not forgetting his pipe and tobacco, cigar and

cigarette cases, and matches, should he be a smoker. Last of all, *remember to get the tickets*. When your master arrives, escort him to the carriage in which you have placed his things ; then take your own seat.

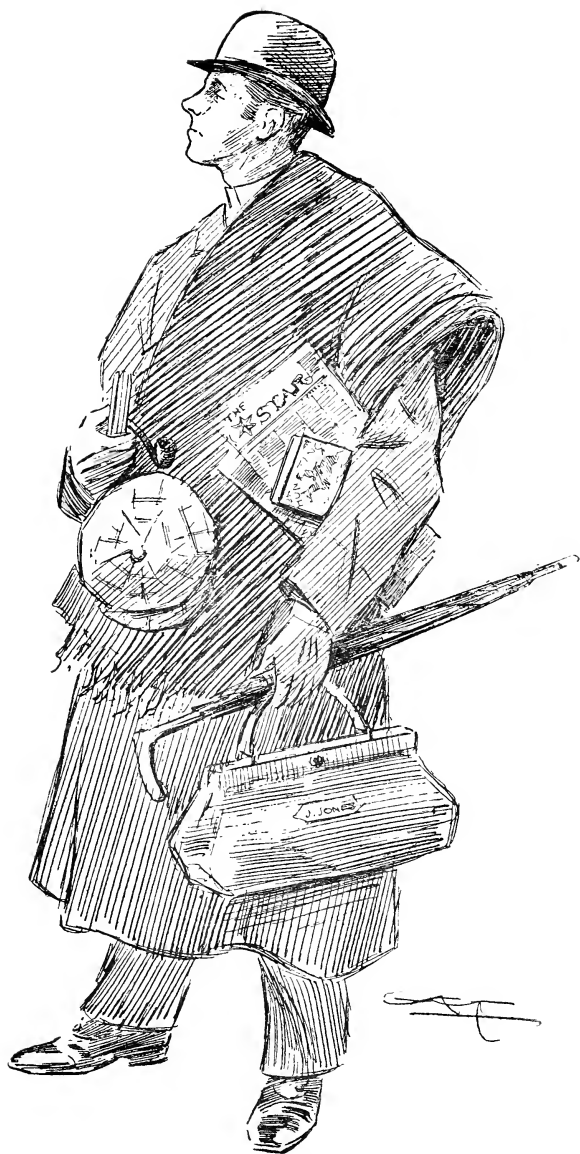
If the train stops at any of the stations on the way, it would be advisable to get out and see if your master requires anything.

When you arrive at your destination, take the packages from your own carriage and give them to a porter, and tell him that you have some luggage in the van ; then go to your master's carriage, and take charge of his dressing-bag, etc. ; afterwards call a hansom for him, that is, in the event of a carriage not being in waiting.

Next you will see that all the luggage is got out of the van. Call a four-wheeler, and have the things placed on it ; give the porter something, and give instructions to the driver as to where you wish to go.

If your master is going to stay at an hotel, the first thing you would do when you arrive would be to find out the numbers of your master's and your own room, and have the luggage taken up to them.

Always have jewel cases and other valuable things locked up in the safe, for there are so many robberies at hotels. By doing this you will relieve yourself of a great responsibility. *Gain your master's permission to do this beforehand.*



"AN ATTENTIVE VALET."

When going out, always lock your master's rooms, and take the keys to the bureau.

When staying at a gentleman's house, offer to give a hand in the pantry. By so doing you will probably gain the favour of the servants.

Should you go on the Continent with your master, the luggage requires to be registered ; this relieves you of all further trouble until you reach your destination. The dressing-bag, rugs, etc., you should place in your master's cabin ; the large baggage is placed in the hold of the boat.

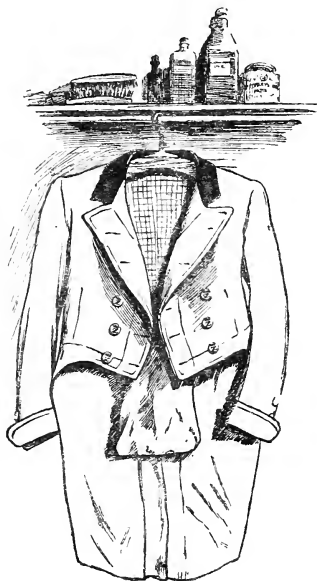
At the end of the journey your baggage is taken to the Customs House, and must be opened for inspection by the customs officers. Have the necessary keys ready, to save any delay. When crossing the frontiers, your baggage must be opened for inspection also.

It would be as well to try and learn a little French. You would find it of great service to you when travelling abroad, especially in Europe.

In large establishments, where a number of men-servants are kept, it is necessary that a valet should be well up in all duties. In many places, especially in London, the valet is expected to be on duty in turn, when the butler is out. If the butler is away at any time or ill, it would fall to the valet to take charge in his absence. Great care must be taken that everything should be carried on properly in the butler's interest.

In conclusion, I have tried to make this book read as easily and simply as possible, and if servants clean hunting things, etc., in the way I have described, they need not fear those who possess any number of recipes.

Valeting has been made much easier of late years by the manufacturers of breeches paste, cloth balls, blacking, varnish, etc., such as Messrs Propert, Clark, Bartley & Sons, Peel & Co., Caswell & Dealtry, and many more.



A Chapter on the Singular Usage of Things connected with Hunting.

By GEORGE A. FOTHERGILL, M.B.

DURING the spring of 1895, while preparing for my final medical examination at Edinburgh University, and with the sound of the horn still ringing in my ears, I spent some portion of my leisure hours in writing a small book, which I called "A Riding Retrospect." A higgledy, piggledy kind of volume, it is true ; but within it is a unique chapter on "The Art of Furnishing a Smoking-Den," which includes a few remarks referring to the singular usage of things connected with hunting.

Ever since the little book was published, I have been pleased, whenever an opportunity arose, to make additions to that chapter in my own particular copy ; for, during my peregrinations, I have purposely kept up an interest in the subject and my eyes open, and have picked up, in a gallinaceous fashion, a wrinkle here and an idea there from a large and very varied hunting acquaintance. I am, therefore, inclined to think that from the following miscellaneous notes, which include those few already

published, each of my readers, ingeniously disposed, will gather something fresh that has not occurred to him before, something to adopt for his own private use or for the benefit of his friends.

Whatever else may be his notions for adorning the rest of his house, a man's "den," more often than any other room, as a general rule, is to be found associated with his tastes in life; and the art of decorating it has grown up with him from boyhood, when he had a study, perhaps, of his own at some great English public school.

Some people there are so peculiarly constituted that inside their luxurious and tasteful homes, they do not wish to have even the slightest reminder of sport of any kind about them. They enjoy to the full their four days a week hunting, their shooting and deer-stalking, their polo and fishing—each in its own proper season—and are besides, for the most part, while engaged over it all, thoroughly good sportsmen; but they appear (some of them I have my doubts about, all the same) on their return home—at any rate as far as the rooms and walls are concerned—to wish to sink into absolute forgetfulness of sport. A *smelling* horse's hide covering a chair, or a hound's skin on the ground, with the "stink of the kennels about it," as they would be sure to put it, to their far-fetched senses would be objectionable, if even seen in a hall, a

billiard room, or smoking "den;" and yet, over their dinner, they can and will—many of them—talk plenty about hunting and shooting and polo.

Plenty of money has enabled them to stock their palatial abodes with everything they desire; but that which is of a sporting nature—no sporting pictures or prints to be seen anywhere on their walls, not even in the bachelor-bedrooms or billiard room—is utterly discarded, utterly unthought of.

There are not a great many people to be found of this type, I am glad to say, though for some high-minded reasons they are to be admired. They wish to turn their thoughts and those of their friends to another side of life when at home. Yet in other ways they show themselves to be narrow-minded and selfish towards their younger guests. The traditions of sport are largely upheld by pictures, and there is no reason why, in some quiet corner of the house, the bachelors at least should not have the pleasure of being surrounded with a few things savouring of their chief amusements; for, come what may, young men—and old too, for that matter—will always continue to talk horse, hound, and gun over their pipes and cigars; and I often think that the more men of this type have around them at home to look at, the less exaggerated will their conversation upon sport become.

The well-coloured print, mellowed down with

age, of an old hero like John Warde on "Blue Ruin" (after Barraud's painting), catching a man's eye now and again as he walks round a billiard table, or a fine mezzotint engraving by W. Ward after B. Marshall's painting of the great Lord Darlington and his hounds, should tend to pull a man together and make him speak "the truth, and nothing but the truth," and talk more about others and less about himself. Can a man well fail to do this after looking up at a print of the portrait of that manly and sportsmanlike figure, Colonel Anstruther Thomson—a man who never told a lie over sport in his life—on one of his favourite hunters, "Iris," painted by Sir Francis Grant, *P.R.A.*, also a sportsman and a distinguished member of society?

Again, when the host himself turns to his mantel-piece to light a cigar, the hoof preserved of an old horse, or the ears set up of a favourite mare, presented to him, it may have been, by the widow of a faithful stud-groom, an old family servant, as a souvenir of the best hunter he had ever had the care of for his young master, possibly some tender chord within him may be touched; and if he is an admirer of Whyte Melville, as most sporting people are, the following words will crop up in his mind—

" There's his hoof upon the chimney,
 There's his hide upon the chair,
 A better never bent him to the rein ;

Now, for all my love and care,
 I've an empty stall and bare,
 I shall never ride my gallant horse again"—

and tend to soften his heart towards the animals he now has in his stable, which perhaps he feels he has, during fits of jealousy, been over-riding very much of late. Yes, I fully believe in the silent influence of such souvenirs as these, just as much as I value a good sporting picture and the works of all wise authors who choose to write upon sport. They all go towards assisting young people to look upon their recreations from a higher standpoint than they otherwise would do were it not for the existence of such things; and they tend also to keep older people from becoming narrow, selfish, and enlarging too much upon their own doings in the past.

According as his experience widens, so should the tastes of a man become more solid. Doubtless, there are some brought up from infancy in the midst of everything that is really good and genuine, who, when quite young, can even appreciate the difference between tawdry goods and those which are solid and of good taste. Put before a boy of sixteen, who knows all about horses and who has been brought up as I have suggested, a two guinea clock, with an imitation horseshoe (studded with *gilt* nails) around it, and a bit of soft, poor leather with a fancy buckle attached to it to hang it up by

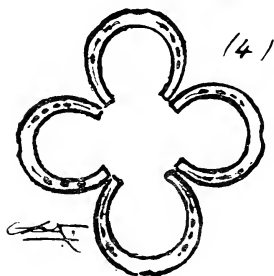
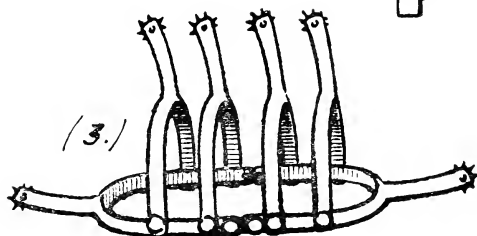
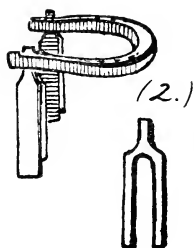
—such a one as might be bought at any third-rate jeweller's—and by the side of it place a plain, but elegant, little half-guinea clock, fixed into a real horseshoe (from a blacksmith's shop), polished by a handy silversmith, with a bit of real leather and buckle to match (cast off from the saddle-room) fastened on to the top of it, and wait for the boy's answer. Would he not at once select the latter, far cheaper, more lasting, and more interesting article?

I shall now enumerate, with a slight description of each, the various articles and objects connected with riding and hunting that may be turned to account either for usage or decoration, especially in the smoking and billiard rooms, about a house.

SPURS.

It is not an uncommon thing for the spurs of a distinguished sportsman to be presented, on his decease, to several of his friends as souvenirs.

Spurs in themselves, without their straps, are sufficiently ornamental to put anywhere about a room—a pair “riding” over a picture frame, a pair lying flat on a smoking-table or mantelshelf, or a number arranged on the hooks of a whip-stand. These, of course, should be periodically polished.



*Diagrams
referred to
in the text.*

A *tobacco ash-tray* made out of a military spur, gilded or otherwise, with a little cut-glass dish cleverly fixed into it by a silversmith, is a useful and pretty ornament (*vide* diagram No. 1, p. 73.)

The most singular use I ever saw spurs put to—and they did look most original and ornamental—was in a *toast-rack*! (*vide* diagram No. 3, p. 73). While I was residing at Hillmorton some years ago, my saddler, Mr Clarke of Albert Street, Rugby and Leamington, one of the most enterprising saddlers in the Midlands, always full of ingenious contrivances to please his customers and better the conditions of hunters, polo ponies, and horses in general, showed me what he called “Tom Carr’s patent toast-rack.” It appeared Mr Clarke happened to be out one day at the North Warwickshire Kennels, and the huntsman, Tom Carr, pulled out his patent toast-rack and told the saddler how it originated. “I was not satisfied,” he said, “with our own toast-rack, so told my wife to fetch me three pair of spurs which I didn’t happen to be using at the time. These I wired together in this form, and a capital good makeshift for toast it is too.” Mr Clarke borrowed the patent, and at once produced a three guinea toast-rack, built on similar lines, out of three new pair of the best plated spurs, which was exhibited along with his saddlery at some of the International Exhibitions.

Picture this toast-rack built up with *solid* silver spurs, and you might have to go further before you would find a more appropriate wedding present for a sporting bridegroom. Though now properly patented—I believe I am right in saying so—they are still most uncommon.

HUNTING CLOTHES.

It is an odd thing, but almost the last articles of clothing which a man, who thinks it possible he may never hunt again, disposes of are his hunting coats and breeches. These are turned out of his wardrobe periodically for an airing, and the moth is rigorously kept out of them for years.

In a few cases the hunting things worn last by certain celebrated sportsmen have been preserved and handed down as heirlooms, so to speak, in the family. There are such men as John Peel, Osbaldeston, John Warde, Meynell, Assheton Smith, and Lord Darlington, to mention only a few, dead and gone, whose belongings of this kind would nowadays be treasured in a glass case.

In the case of William Harry, Earl of Darlington, who hunted such an enormous territory in the north with his Raby pack until 1830, I know that one of his coats with the black collar and gold fox on it, and his hunting cap with three inch peak, are still in existence. The latter, lent me by Lord Barnard at

Raby Castle, I sketched for the title-page of my "Old Raby Hunt Club Album."

Sir Wilfrid Lawson, I believe, possesses some of the clothing of John Peel, senr. (b. 1776, d. 1854), who hunted his own hounds for fifty years. Some years ago I was fortunate enough to call at the house of one of Peel's daughters, Mrs Calvert, aged 75, of Ruthwaite, where she resided in a cottage opposite her father's old kennel, and found the old body (since deceased) busily employed over some patch-work cushions made out of her father's "coat so grey" and one of his red waistcoats. She kindly gave me a couple of patches of the same as well as a gilt button, which, together with a photo of her old father and one of his gravestone at Caldbeck, I had mounted in a bit of old oak, and hung on my wall for some time, until I parted with it, alas! at an auction held in Darlington (April 12, 1900). I suppose, intrinsically, it was not worth more than five or six shillings, but the bidding started at 10s. and rose rapidly to three guineas. It was knocked down to a member of the Old Raby Hunt Club. Some day it will probably be worth considerably more than that sum to the sporting man, for has not the song "John Peel" spread into all lands far and wide, and how many people are there who can say they have "touched his garment," much less owned a bit of it?

Hanging on Mrs Calvert's cottage wall were all that remained of John Peel to the family—some bits, stirrups, and two horns, one, which Mrs Calvert asked me to sound, being the old curved copper horn, mended in several places, which had been blasted by the hero of the best hunting-song we know of “up hill and down dale” during the early mornings of so many seasons.

BOOTS.

Many racing, hunting, and polo men have special cases (similar to gun cases) with glass doors fitted into a corner of their smoking rooms, in which at least a dozen pairs of beautifully polished boots in trees are kept. If suitably designed, these cases are by no means an eyesore; they are quite the reverse. Mahogany, *à la* Chippendale in design, or old oak cases can be made to extend down one side of a room, and the top used for cups and trophies won in point to point races, at polo, and so forth, or any other articles of decoration; or, again, the cases may be fixed into recesses in the wall.

HUNTING HORNS.

When a man has hunted hounds a good many years, horns accumulate. These, as they are done with, should not be thrown away: One huntsman

I know of has a string of half a dozen hung loop-like on the wall beneath a large and favourite picture. Another huntsman, to my knowledge, has two silver presentation horns turned up on end and fixed on stands at each side of his mantel-piece, using them for *spill boxes*. Old pewter and brass is collected by not a few. Why should not sportsmen accumulate old horns? I do know of a few that have small collections of these very interesting mementoes of the past worthies of the chase, each horn being well polished and suitably engraved.

HORSE SHOES.

From time immemorial a horse shoe has been used over a doorway for good luck. *Four shoes* taken off a favourite hunter or racehorse (after he has been shot), and well polished and fixed together by a silversmith, make a capital *stand for a large flower bowl* or prize loving-cup, which looks well as a centre-piece for a dining table (*vide* diagram No. 4, page 73).

A shoe off some favourite, with a support attached to it (a blacksmith can do this nicely), makes a good *kettle rest* for a grate with bars. *Vide* diagram No. 2, page 73). I first saw these used at Gumley Hall in Leicestershire, where several of the bedrooms had them attached to the grates. A polished

shoe is well suited for a *letter weight*. A small round clock fixed into a polished horse shoe by a silversmith makes an ornamental and graceful *time-piece*.

HORSE'S HOOF.

Ink pots, letter weights, snuff boxes, match boxes, and other articles of use are made out of polished horses' hoofs, with shoes left on. The lower part of the leg, from knee down, set up by a taxidermist and weighted, can be used for *door-rests*; or, if kept by the side of the fireplace, one on each side, silver *ash-trays* may be added and fixed on to the top of them.

HORSES' EARS.

If well cured and set up naturally on little black marble stands, large ears of a hunter make serviceable *spill-boxes*.

HORSES' TAILS.

At several places I have seen a tail fixed to a small shield, hanging up as a souvenir of some wonderful racehorse. In the saddle-room at Aske, I once sketched "Voltigeur's" tail, which Lord Zetland had presented to his stud-groom.

HORSE'S SKIN.

A horse's skin, after being well cured, can be used as a *hall or study mat*, may be used to cover a large chair, or stretched over a wooden frame-work to make a screen. The dark chesnut skin of the famous champion hackney "Sir George," sire of so many prize-winners, and founder, so to speak, of the Hackney pony-breed, I have seen lying on the hall floor at Rigmaden Park, the seat of Christopher Wilson, Esq., who bred him. At Raby Castle I have sketched an old carved oak chair covered with the grey, tic-marked skin of "Vicar," a favourite horse of Lord Darlington's, put down about the year 1820. The chair was in the large entrance hall when I saw it last, and, but for a rip in the seat, it was in good order, with the hair perfectly preserved.

Covers made of horses' skin, set in silver for *blotting-pads*, make pretty ornaments for the writing-table. This is as pleasant a way as any by which to remember an old favourite.

REINS.

A rein-strap that has been used and is dark in colour, attached to a snaffle bit for a handle or a racing stirrup (which is neater and smaller, of course, than a hunting stirrup), will serve as a unique bell rope by the side of a fireplace.

STIRRUPS.

A small round silver clock may be picturesquely hung within a stirrup from the leather-hole—a pretty and sporting looking stand. A stirrup with very wide base should be used, and the clock fixed to the sides, otherwise it will always be toppling over.

FOX PADS.

A handle to a long button-hook may take the shape of a fox pad, and a very original one it makes too.

The same applies to otter pads.

FOX'S BRUSH.

Half-a-dozen good fox brushes make an excellent *ladies' "boar"* when cured and fastened cleverly together by the right person. Three brushes strung together make a very warm muffler for a man to be put under his overcoat collar—a grand protection, when driving, on a cold blustering night.

A fox's brush may be used, and looks well, as a *handle to a bell rope*. If fixed to a wooden handle and made stiff, one can be used as a *feather brush*—the handle may take the shape of a fox's pad. It was once upon a time quite fashionable for a hunting man to have both these about his bedroom—the latter has now become very common.

Personally, I prefer the real feather brush (kept by the housemaid in her cupboard) to this foxy one. I like best to see fox brushes hanging limp and straight from the hooks of a whip-stand, where they look natural.

FOX'S MASK.

Here we come to a question for the taxidermist and sportsman combined.

There are a good many taxidermists throughout the country who can cure and set up a fox's mask satisfactorily, but of all the "stuffers" I know, Mr Rowland Ward included, there is no one to beat Mr Spicer, of Leamington, who has lived amongst foxes and "foxy" people all his life. Masks are sent to him from all over England, Ireland, and Scotland, and he has never failed to make a really good job of them, setting them up to please a huntsman—the right man to please above all—who is accustomed to handle a fox, on the average, every other day of his life during a season.

Spicer's masks I remember when I was a little chap of eight years of age. They have the true "foxy" look, generally with ears laid back, mouths wide open or half closed, upper lip raised to show teeth, and eyes looking as ferocious as it is possible

to make them, with eyelids partially closed. There is a game-till-death kind of appearance about all Spicer's foxes.

Large oak shields backing up foxes' masks, I do not care much about. I think the best way of mounting them is to fix them on to narrowish thin strips of some dark wood—walnut or old oak—polished, the wood topped with silver all over and round sides, and engraved with inscription, no wood showing below foxes' necks at all.

The first time I saw this idea was in Lord Zetland's study at Aske, Richmond, Yorks, where that most popular M.F.H. very kindly showed me about fifteen masks set up, all in this fashion, round his room, one above the other, between the panels. The general effect is "foxy" in the extreme, without displaying a number of large and stiff-looking shields.

The late huntsman of the Bedale, Fred Holland, has three cases, each containing a mask set up differently. They were done by Spicer, of Leamington, who carried out Holland's own idea, and that was modified, no doubt, from some method he had seen adopted before. Each small square case is made of wood, stained black, with glass at sides and front, and back painted hunting red inside, with inscription in white letters on the red; the fox's mask in central case looking to you, and

each of the masks in side cases looking round at the one in central case. These three ornaments form a background to his sideboard.

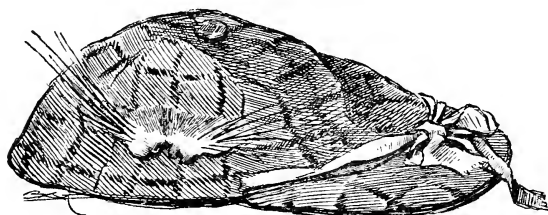
THE FOX.

A specimen of a full-grown stuffed fox should be in every natural history museum ; and, for that purpose, it *must* be shot, in order to make certain of its being whole. But, fortunately, there is a limit to shooting foxes for museums.

I have never cared to see a stuffed fox in any shape or form in a private house. There is always the suspicion attached to it that it has not got there in a truly sporting way. Of course, if a fox has been shot on the fells of Westmorland or Cumberland, or in any other outlandish place, it matters nothing ; but in a country where hounds are kept up at a great expense, it seems a great shame—or else there is some great reason for it—to purposely shoot or trap a fox with the entire object of putting him in a case. Tame foxes have been kept for ages, and many of these eventually find their way to a taxidermist ; but they never, to my mind, look well stuffed : the game look of a wild fox seems to be conspicuous by its absence in a fox that has never been allowed any freedom.

HARE'S MASK.

Nothing looks so bad in a stuffed head as to see a hare's ears badly placed. To look well, they must be either absolutely erect and turned well forward, or else laid right back, and, if anything, down on the side of her neck.

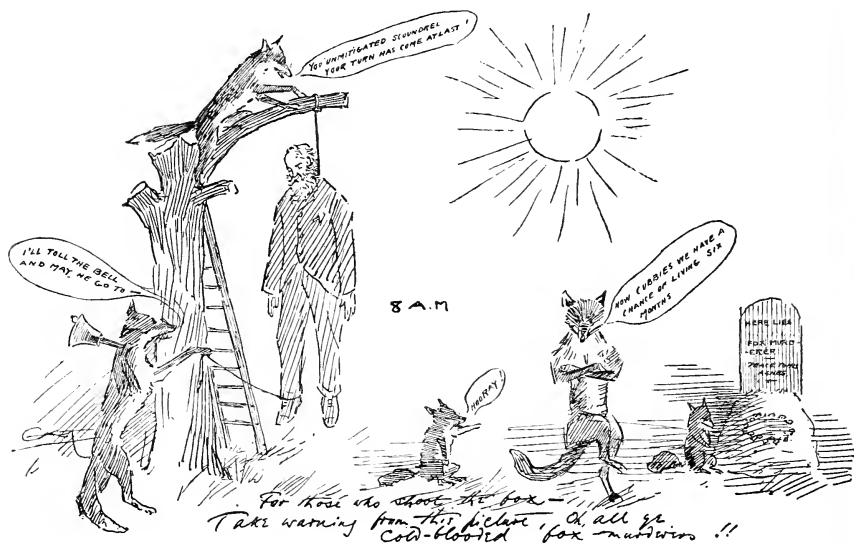


*Yours Truly
Tom Watson*

SNOUT OF A HARE.

Mr Thomas Watson, formerly master and huntsman of the Darlington Foot Harriers, who established a record in England for killing hares (618 in six seasons' hunting), was the author, I believe, of the following singular usage of part of the hare. He was in the habit of cutting the snout off a hare

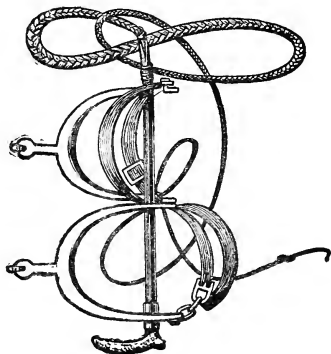
after killing her, when the whole mask was not required. This he would give to one of the followers, or keep himself; and on several of his hunting caps he had a snout carefully sewn on at the side, which presented a striking appearance with the long "whiskers" standing well out, backwards and forwards, like wings! Mr Watson once also did the same with a fox's snout (*vide sketch*).



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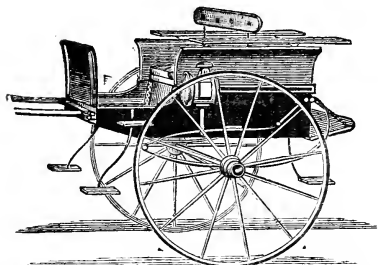
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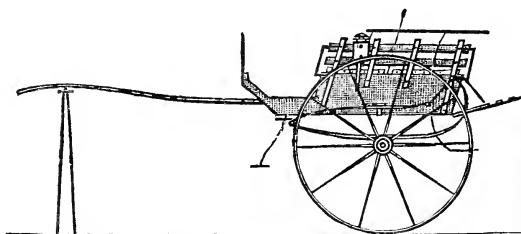
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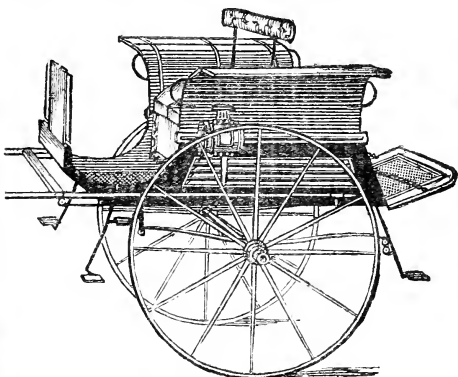
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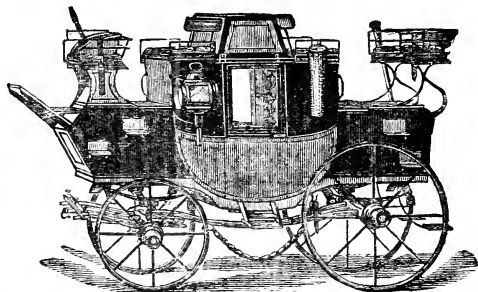
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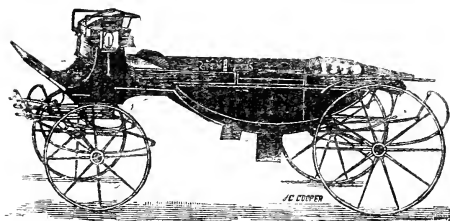
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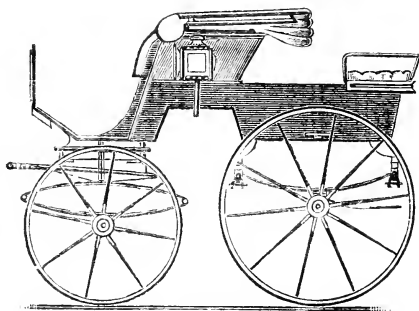
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How to clean Riding Breeches and Jodhpurs

NATURALLY riding breeches and jodhpurs get very dirty but if a few simple rules are observed there is no difficulty in cleaning or, if necessary, washing them. The main risk in washing is shrinkage in length but this can easily be avoided. Do not worry if after washing, the breeches feel a little tight round the legs; the cloth is bound to have contracted slightly but will stretch again when worn.

It is worth remembering that any woollen cloth can always be made to shrink, it is done deliberately as part of the manufacturing process but by the time it has been tailored it has already shrunk as far as it will go under normal treatment. If, however, the breeches are unfairly treated then the cloth may shrink further and the result, of course, will be a badly fitting pair of breeches.

Unless it is certain that the breeches are going to have careful attention it is far better to send them to a reputable firm of dry cleaners or to Moss Bros. and so make sure of avoiding shrinkage.

These notes can apply equally to melton and scarlet hunt coats and hacking jackets, but especial care is necessary in washing these and apart from using the treatment recommended below for slightly soiled garments, dry cleaning is advised.

1. Brush thoroughly with a clean, stiff bristled clothes brush.
2. Sponge over with a clean damp sponge or soft cloth. Use 1 pint of lukewarm water to which 1 TEASPOON of STERGENE has been added. Only damp the surface of the garment as it is only surface dirt which is being removed.
3. Hang up and allow to dry naturally in the open air or in a warm room or airing cupboard. DO NOT dry in front of a fire or on a hot radiator.

Remember the following is classed as UNFAIR TREATMENT and must be avoided.

1. Washing in hot water.
2. Washing in water containing soap or other cleaning agents which are unsuitable for this purpose.
3. Excessive rubbing by hand or excessive agitation in a washing machine.
4. Drying quickly in front of a fire, on a hot radiator, or under a hot iron.

SAFE TREATMENT

Whenever possible use soft water for washing. Rain water provided it is clean is first class.

1. Remove all surface dirt and mud by brushing with a clean, stiff bristled clothes brush.
2. Thoroughly wet out the breeches in a bowl of lukewarm water.
3. Apply undiluted STERGENE to the worst stains and rub well into the cloth.
4. Wash in a bowl using lukewarm water to which STERGENE has been added in the proportion of 2 TABLESPOONS of STERGENE to 2 gallons of water. It is preferable that this washing should be done by hand. We cannot recommend the use of a washing machine. Any bad stains can be scrubbed with a nail brush dipped in STERGENE.
5. Squeeze the cloth whilst washing—do not agitate unnecessarily.
5. Rinse thoroughly in lukewarm water—two separate rinses may be necessary.
6. Finally rinse in cold water.
7. Squeeze out as much water as possible by hand, pull out breeches or jodhpurs lengthwise to their natural shape and hang up to dry. Leave to dry naturally if possible in the open air, in any case do not dry quickly in front of a fire or on a hot radiator.
8. When almost dry lay breeches or jodhpurs out flat on a table and again pull lengthwise into their natural shape. If it is necessary to iron out creases do so with a warm iron NOT a very hot one.

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